

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 IO-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 /104 W

----- 048448

R 091330Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7465

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMSCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, IS, JO, UNRWA

REF: (A) BEIRUT 12381; (B) USUN 4690

1. CONSUL GENERAL AND DPO CALLED ON UNRWA DIRECTOR FOR WEST BANK, DR. MOHAMMAD SHARIF AND DEPUTY SHAPIRO OCT 9 FOR GENERAL REVIEW OF OPERATIONS. DURING DISCUSSION OF CURRENT UNRWA \$13.2 MILLION DEFICIT, THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN BUT DID NOT APPEAR UNDULY ALARMED. THEY GAVE NO INDICATION OF BEING AWARE OF ANY PLANS TO CUT SERVICES AT END OF OCTOBER, LET ALONE TO SHUT DOWN ENTIRELY. EDUCATION PROGRAM, WHICH CONSTITUTES ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF WEST BANK BUDGET, IS OPERATING ON FULL SCALE AND NO INSTRUCTIONS RE ANY CHANGE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

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2. SHARIF AND SHAPIRO COMMENTED ON DIFFICULTY FOR UNRWA

POSED BY CURRENT SITUATION IN BEIRUT. THEY ARE HAVING SOME TROUBLE IN COMMUNICATING WITH HEADQUARTERS (COURIER UNABLE TO PROCEED NORTHWARD FROM ROSH HANIKRA BORDER CROSSING OCT 8 AND RETURNED TO JERUSALEM) AND WERE SPECULATING WHETHER UNRWA WOULD HAVE TO MOVE HEADQUARTER (E.G. TO AMMAN) AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARED WE PROBABLY ARE BETTER INFORMED RE RENNIE'S THINKING THAN HIS AEELD OFFICERS HERE. WHILE THIS MAY BE DUE IN PART TO COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS, WE ASSUME HE MAY BE WITHHOLDING ANY INSTRUCTION TO FILED RE CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN HOPES LAST DITCH EFFORTS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN TURNING UP ADDITIONAL FUNDS.
NEWLIN

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